

DRAFT

**TOWN OF FIFIELD REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF August 1, 2019**

ROLL CALL: The meeting was brought to order on August 1, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fifield Town Hall. Roll Call: W. Felch, J. Hintz, B. Salm were in attendance. Also present were T. Birchell, T. Fleming, J. Jontry and 16 others. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: A MOTION (Hintz, Salm) was made to accept the Minutes of the July 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried, voice vote (3, 0).

TOWN CREW REPORT: T. Fleming reported adding 480 yards of gravel to Cy's Drive. New ATV signs were installed at the town lines and "local access only" signs were removed. The culvert at Boyer Road is failing; the Highway Department is currently doing ditch clearing and can dig it for us. The deck on the larger lawnmower (which was purchased in 2001) at the cemetery needs replacing; estimated cost for a used deck is \$350 - \$500. J. Hintz stated to go ahead and replace the deck. R. Schwai asked if any more work will be done on Cy's Drive. T. Fleming stated some gravel was added in areas that needed it but that was all, and trucks would need to be hired to do the entire road as the crew will be busy with Dam Road. J. Hintz told T. Fleming to hold off on Dam Road to finish addressing Cy's Drive. T. Fleming then stated the crew could start adding more gravel to Cy's drive with our trucks on August 9th, and work on it over a couple of days. B. Felch stated this matter will be placed on the Agenda for August 15th for follow-up.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: **Fire Department #2:** T. Birchell reported no calls since the July 18th meeting. Training begins tomorrow for SPS330 (truck and pump operation certification) prior to testing. **Fire Department #1:** R. Lobermeier reported three first responder calls, including a mutual aid assist with Park Falls for a structure fire. Dam breach training will be conducted on August 8th, as well as a training session with Price County Emergency Government on August 15th.

DISCUSS FR 142 / TWIN LAKES ROAD: Melanie (?) and Gabe Esquibel from the USFS were in attendance and provided an update on the project as concerns the 50 foot right-of-way and the removal of merchantable timber. Gabe marked about 1,080 trees for removal and appraised it at about \$500 per cord (firewood rate). The Town has several options regarding the timber: The Town can cut it and leave it on site; the public could cut and remove it with a permit; the Town can pay the \$500 and remove it for later sale or to give away. The timber could also be chipped and left on site; if chipped and removed we would have to pay for it (plus cost of labor and the chipper). Gabe stated it could potentially be included in a timber sale package with Blockhouse Road, but logistically this would not be ideal. The Town will need to decide on an option. Melanie stated that the permit which was signed in April 2018 regarding gravel expired in December of 2018; this could be reorganized. J. Hintz asked if an engineer from the Forest Service could take a look at it regarding ditching and drainage; Melanie stated she could find out. R. Schwai inquired if the Lac du Flambeau tribe might want to cover the cost and do the work, as was discussed 15 years ago. Further discussion and decision was tabled for the August 15th meeting.

DISCUSS AND MAKE A DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ROOM TAX: W. Felch stated that based on general feedback at the July 18th meeting in Pike Lake, and information gathered since then, the Board is opposed to implementing a room tax. **MOTION (Hintz, Salm) to implement a room tax in the Town of Fifield. Roll call vote: W. Felch – Nay; J. Hintz – Nay; B. Salm – Nay. Motion denied.**

DISCUSS PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION BY COUNTY TREASURER FOR 2019: J. Jontry advised the Board that the County Treasurer asked for the Board to decide on whether or not to have the County continue to collect property taxes and dog licensing fees for the town. J. Hintz stated we can have the County continue to do so indefinitely, subject to review in future years if necessary. **MOTION (Hintz, Salm) to continue to have Town of Fifield property taxes collected by the County Treasurer for 2019, and subsequent years indefinitely. Motion carried, voice vote (3, 0).**

DISCUSS NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR 2020: J. Jontry presented information regarding new voting machines the Town will be required to purchase prior to spring of 2020. The old equipment is obsolete and Command Central will no longer be providing support for them. The County will make the initial purchases and provide interest-free financing to the Town for a term of three years. This item will be on the Agenda for August 15th.

DRIVEWAY ACCESS PERMITS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: L. Wenzel provided some additional information regarding the mower at the cemetery, and replacing the deck. It has 2,100 hours on it and is 20 years old; could the Town consider a budget item for next year to replace the 50" mower and just keep the 38" as a backup? Mr. Wenzel also inquired about obtaining signage for the cemetery informing the public about cleanup of seasonal decorations in April and October. J. Jontry will communicate this to M. Behling for further consideration. R. Schwai inquired about cracking on the bridge on 144/Springstead Creek; T. Fleming indicated it is scheduled to be patched next week. F. Sevcik requested a dead-end sign for Cy's Drive like the one on Figgy Road; T. Fleming stated there is already one there. F. Sevcik then inquired about the surveyor fee for Cy's Drive; can it be done now since the residents will be paying for it? B. Felch will check into this. R. Wenzel stated we should have a "free" day at the transfer sites for residents to bring household items.

CORRESPONDENCE: B. Felch received a letter from R. Severt in response to our request that he retrieve paint cans (prohibited hazardous waste) which were placed in the compactor at the transfer site.

REVIEW INVOICES: A MOTION (Hintz, Salm) was made to accept invoices for payment. Motion carried, voice vote (3, 0).

ADJOURN: A MOTION was made at 8:10 p.m. (Salm, Hintz) to adjourn. Motion carried, voice vote (3, 0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Jontry
Town Clerk/Treasurer